What is claimed is:

1. A thrombus filter configured for placement within a blood vessel lumen defined by a blood vessel wall, comprising:

a body portion;

a plurality of struts, each strut having a joined end and a free end;

the joined end of each strut being fixedly attached to the body portion; and

each strut including a weakened portion proximate the free end of the strut.

2. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the free end of each strut includes a sharp projection.

3. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein each strut is rectangular in cross section.

4. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein each strut is circular in cross section.

5. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the strut is reduced proximate the weakened portion.

6. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a notch.

7. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a slot.

8. The thrombus filter of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion includes a hole.

9. A thrombus filter configured for placement within a blood vessel lumen defined by a blood vessel wall, comprising:

a body portion;

a plurality of struts, each strut having a joined end and a free end;

the joined end of each strut being fixedly attached to the body portion;

the free end of each strut including an anchor member; and

each strut including a weakened portion proximate the anchor member.

10. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the struts have a circular cross section.

11. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the struts have a rectangular cross section.

12. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a notch.

13. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a slot.

14. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion includes a hole.

15. The thrombus filter of claim 9, wherein the free end of each strut includes a sharp projection.

16. A method of removing a thrombus filter from a blood vessel lumen inside a living being, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a thrombus filter including a plurality of struts, each strut having a free end;

the free end of each strut including an anchor member, and each strut including a weakened portion proximate the anchor member;

connecting a retrieval catheter to the thrombus filter;

breaking each strut proximate the weakened portion; and

withdrawing the filter from the vessel.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each anchor member includes a sharp projection.

18. The method of claim 12, further including the step of applying a force to the thrombus filter, wherein the force applied is sufficient in magnitude to break the struts proximate the weakened portion.

19. The method of claim 12, further including the step of repeatedly deflecting the struts to induce fatigue cracking at the weakened portions of the struts.